

ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COURSE SYLLABUS					
Course Code	Course Title	Course Type	ECTS Credits	Prerequisite Information	Date of Preparation
PSPA 101	Introduction to Politics I	Compulsory	5	-	September 2026
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Asst. Prof. Ayşe Ayten Bakacak (ayseaytenbakacak@aybu.edu.tr)				
Office Hours & Office Room	Thursday, 11.30-12.30, Office No: B70				
Course Content and Objectives	This course aims to introduce students to the fundamental concepts, theories, and ideologies of political science, providing them with the essential knowledge and skills to understand political processes and contemporary debates. This course serves as an introduction to political science, familiarizing students with fundamental concepts, political theories, ideologies, and political processes. The course covers core political concepts, major political ideologies, and mechanisms of political participation and representation. The aim is for students to develop a general understanding of the fundamental areas of political science.				
Textbook(s)	Heywood, A. (2021). Politics. Bloomsbury Publishing. (7th edition) Heywood, A. (2017). Political Ideologies: An Introduction. Bloomsbury Publishing. (6th edition) Heywood, A. (2015). Political Theory: An Introduction (4th edition)				
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course is primarily conducted through lectures, complemented by in-class discussions that encourage active student participation.				
Course Learning Outcomes	1	Explains the fundamental concepts of political science, the main approaches in political theory, and the major political ideologies.			
	2	Compares the core principles, conceptions of politics, and views of society advanced by the major political ideologies.			
	3	Explains political processes and actors and interprets the relationships among them.			
	4	Analyzes academic sources on political issues and communicates ideas effectively in written and oral form.			
	5	Applies the fundamental concepts and approaches of political science to interpret contemporary political issues and debates.			
Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course	Program Outcomes (PO)				
		Defines and interprets the core concepts, theories, and approaches in the fields of political science, public administration, law, and urbanization-environmental studies.			
		Compares the intellectual foundations of major political ideologies and social difference phenomena—such as religion, identity, nationalism, and ethnicity—and analyzes their reflections on politics and society.			
		Analyzes the historical development of Turkish political life, state-society relations, and the administrative-constitutional structure of Türkiye.			
		Analyzes relations among societies and states within the context of world history; evaluates current developments at national, regional, and global levels based on theoretical knowledge.			
		Defines the basic concepts and principles of economics and public finance; explains the relationship of public finance and economic policies with political and administrative decisions.			
	Collects and analyzes data using quantitative and qualitative research methods, and makes scientific inferences regarding political and administrative phenomena.				

Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction	The Introduction to Politics course provides students with an interdisciplinary foundation by presenting the core concepts, theories, and methods of political science through both mainstream and critical perspectives. By equipping students with the ability to analyze political phenomena, institutions, ideologies, and power relations, this course offers the necessary conceptual framework for specialized courses in the later stages of the field. Furthermore, by instilling the capacity to question social and global issues around the principles of justice and historical context, it directly fosters students' critical thinking and independent analytical skills.		
Topics Covered in the Course	1. Week	General introduction and review of the syllabus	
	2. Week	What is politics?	
	3. Week	Political Theory and Political Ideas	
	4. Week	Liberalism	
	5. Week	Conservatism	
	6. Week	Socialism	
	7. Week	Populism	
	8. Week	Midterm Week	
	9. Week	Other Ideologies: Anarchism, Fascism, Feminism	
	10. Week	Nations and Nationalism	
	11. Week	Politics and the State	
	12. Week	Politics, Society and Identity	
	13. Week	Power and Legitimacy	
	14. Week	Rights, Duties, Freedom and Equality	
	15. Week	Review of the Course	
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms	1	40%
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments		%
	Attendance		%
	Practice		%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	60%
	Total		100%
Disability Policy	If you have a documented disability (e.g., visual, hearing, or physical impairment, etc.) that may influence your performance in this course, it is recommended to meet with the Engelsiz AYBU (https://aybu.edu.tr/engelsiz/content_list-327-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-engelsiz-universite-birimi-yonergesi.html) to arrange for reasonable conditions (such as accommodation, etc.) to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. You may also contact the relevant authority of the Faculty of Political Sciences. You should communicate your needs to the course instructor as soon as possible to ensure that any course needs concerning exams, lecture materials, etc. are met.		
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools Usage Policy	Assessment in this course is based solely on a midterm and a final exam; therefore, no assignments, projects, or papers are required. Students are welcome to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude) as supplementary "study assistants" to help understand course materials, review complex topics, and prepare for exams. However, since all examinations will be conducted in-class (proctored), the use of AI tools or any smart devices during exams is strictly prohibited and will be treated as a direct violation of academic integrity (cheating).		